

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee

Meeting of Thursday, November 4, 2010

Police Station Community Room

Attendance: Peggy Roberts, Nonny Burack, Rob Crowner, Mary Streeter; absent: Adrienne Terrizzi, Harry Brooks, Carol Gray. Guests: Harrison Gregg (4:23-4:57), Anurag Sharma (4:33-4:50).

1. Call to order: Peggy calls the meeting to order at 4:09pm.

2. Report on electronic voting: The committee reviews the draft of an interim report on electronic voting, prepared by Rob, and provides feedback for a final version that will be made available on the back table on the first night of Town Meeting. Rob will make revisions and deliver to the Select Board office before the deadline.

4. Preparations for Town Meeting: Peggy reports on the Town Meeting planning meeting that she attended. The primary order of business was review of the "script", which lists motions, speakers, and committee recommendations for each article.

3. Moderators meeting: Harrison reports on the electronic voting forum in which he participated, along with moderators from Framingham and Wayland, at the recent Massachusetts moderators meeting. All three towns have been grappling with similar concerns about electronic voting. The consensus seems to be that it will be used eventually, but that it is not yet ready.

Framingham has already adjusted its bylaws to allow the use of electronic voting, but purchase of a system was rejected by Town Meeting due to cost concerns. The proposed budget included additional tech support. Wayland's "Electronic Voting Implementation Subcommittee (ELVIS)" has recommended against adopting it, but the prearranged free demonstration will take place anyway at Annual Town Meeting in the Spring. Wayland would use the barcodes listed in the voting register to check people in, but would not post individual results. People would have to turn in clickers and driver's license when leaving the meeting to use the restroom.

The committee discusses whether it is ready to make a recommendation on electronic voting and concludes that it will wait until after Town Meeting, when Town Meeting members will have had a chance to comment on its interim report. It is agreed that a recommendation should be made before Kris Pacunas makes a capital request of the JCPC.

5. Precinct meetings: Mary reports that two precinct meetings have taken place, with two still to be held. It is not known whether ACTV has run the promo slides that Mary produced to advertise the precinct meetings. The committee expresses concern that ACTV's shifting emphasis may harm future publicity efforts and even the democratic process, as the demise of newspapers has.

6. New business: n/a.

7. Minutes: The committee approves the minutes of the meeting of October 26, 2010 by a vote of 4-0.

8. Adjournment: The meeting is adjourned at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Crowner

Documents provided:

1. agenda
2. draft minutes of meeting of October 26, 2010
3. draft of interim report to Town Meeting